

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The Office Action mailed October 21, 2003 has been reviewed and carefully considered. Claim 8 is canceled. Claims 1 and 9 have been amended and claims 11 and 12 are added. Claims 1-7 and 9-12 are pending in this application, with claim 1 being the only independent claim. Reconsideration of the above-identified application, as herein amended and in view of the following remarks, is respectfully requested.

Support for new claim 11 is found in the specification at page 8, lines 19-20.

Support for new claim 12 is found in the specification at page 8, line 21 to page 9, line 4.

In the Office Action mailed October 21, 2003, claims 1-3 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as unpatentable over WO 99/35830 (Thomson) in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,260,192 (Rosen).

Claims 4-5 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as unpatentable over Thomson in view of Rosen and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,208,335 (Gordon).

Claims 6-7 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as unpatentable over Thomson in view of Rosen and further in view of WO 83/03181.

Claim 10 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as unpatentable over Thomson in view of Rosen and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,587,127 (Leeke).

Claims 8 and 9 were found to contain allowable subject matter and would be allowable if written in independent form. In view of the allowable subject matter, independent claim 1 is rewritten to include the allowable limitations of claim 8, which depends directly from independent claim 1. Since allowable subject matter is incorporated in independent claim 1, it is respectfully submitted that independent claim 1 is now allowable. Dependent claim 9, which

depends from independent claim 1, is amended to be consistent with the changes to independent claim 1.

Dependent claims 2-7 and 9-12, being dependent on independent claim 1, are deemed allowable for the same reasons expressed above with respect to independent claim 1.


The application is now deemed to be in condition for allowance and notice to that effect is solicited.

It is believed that no fees or charges are required at this time in connection with the present application; however, if any fees or charges are required at this time, they may be charged to our Patent and Trademark Office Deposit Account No. 03-2412.

Respectfully submitted,

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